

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

PG: 87A-31
Inventory No. 87A-11

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Green Hill (Barbara Duvall Tobacco Barn)

2. Location

street and number 19404 Aquasco Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Aquasco ☐ vicinity

county Prince George's

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Barbara A. Duvall

street and number 19404 Aquasco Road telephone

city, town Aquasco state MD zip code 20608-2150

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber 15605 folio 297

city, town tax map 178B1 tax parcel 100 tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category

☐ district
☐ building(s)
☒ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Current Function

☐ agriculture ☐ landscape
☐ commerce/trade ☐ recreation/culture
☐ defense ☐ religion
☐ domestic ☐ social
☐ education ☐ transportation
☐ funerary ☐ work in progress
☐ government ☐ unknown
☐ health care ☒ vacant/not in use
☐ industry ☐ other: _____

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing
_____	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
_____	_____ Total

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

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Condition

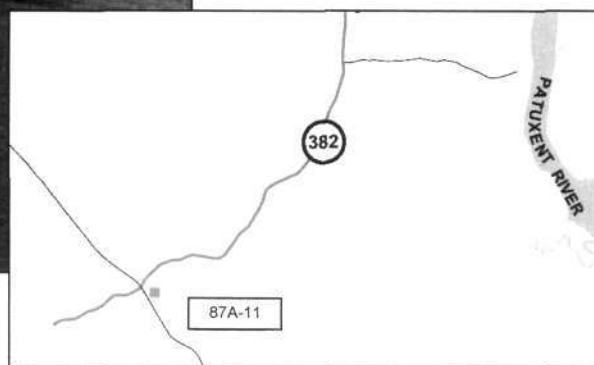
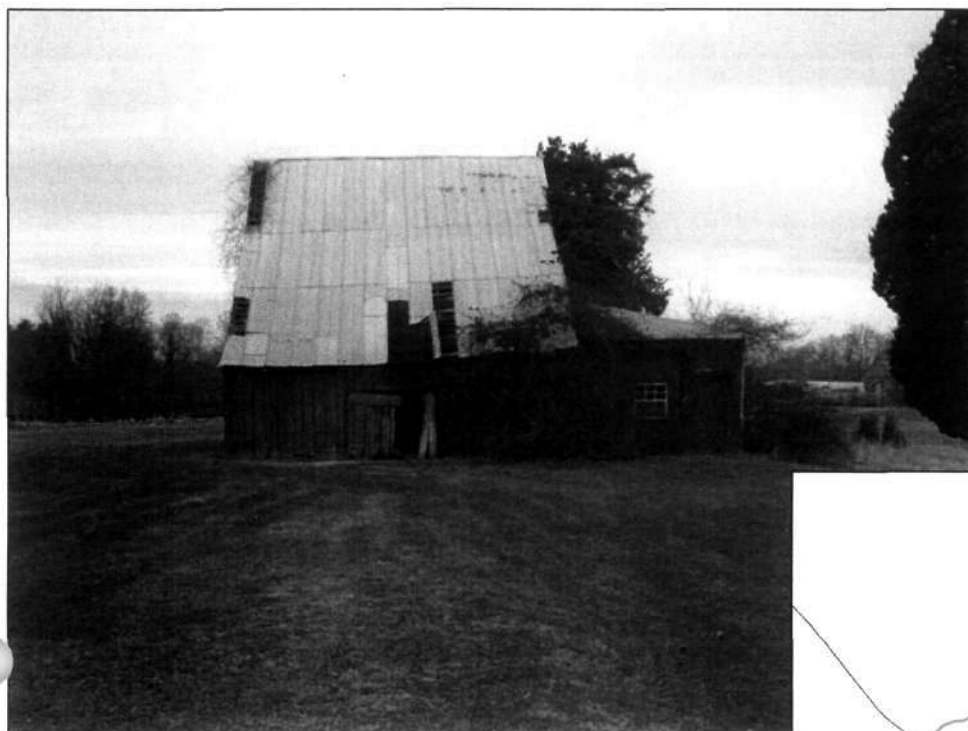
☐ excellent ☒ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Sited on a grassy field to the west of the dwelling house, this vacant one-story tobacco barn dates to circa 1820. Constructed of hand-hewn timbers, the building is clad in circular sawn vertical boards of varying widths and topped with a steeply pitched gable roof covered with sheets of standing-seam metal. One story wood-frame shed additions clad in vertical boards has been added to the west and north elevations. The interior of the building is divided into numerous rooms for the drying of tobacco and has a dirt floor and hand-hewn up-braced timbers. The barn is painted green.

The south elevation of the barn is clad in circular sawn vertical boards of varying widths on the walls and weatherboards in the gable. A two-leaf vertical board door with large metal hinges is centered beneath the gable. A rectangular opening in the gable peak has been closed with weatherboards. The west elevation of the barn, which faces Croom Road, features a one-story shed addition clad in vertical board siding. A two-leaf wood vertical door with metal hinges is centered on this elevation. The roof to the shed addition has collapsed and the barn's severe state of deterioration is visible on this elevation. The north elevation features a one-story shed clad in circular sawn vertical boards and topped with a half-hipped roof covered in asphalt shingles that has partially collapsed. The gable end of the original barn, visible above the shed, has lost almost all of its weatherboards. A centrally placed two-leaf vertical board wood door provides access. The east elevation of the barn features one two-leaf wood vertical board door with metal hinges. The east elevation of the shed addition contains a vinyl 6/6-light window positioned next to a modern single-leaf cross bar wood door.

From the interior the early 19th century construction techniques are visible. The building is of post-in-ground construction with up-braced supports. The early timber framing has been braced with concrete blocks and new timbers. Most of the original timbers are hand-hewn and mortised and tenoned together. Although the central portion of the barn appears to be stable, the shed additions are collapsing.



8. Significance

Inventory No. 87A-11

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates ca. 1820

Architect/Builder

Construction dates ca. 1820

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☐ Maryland Register☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

During the more than two centuries in which tobacco served as the money crop in Prince George's County, planters, indentured servants, slaves, and farmers developed utilitarian structures for tobacco curing and packing that have remained essentially the same to the present day. Early barns were square in plan and constructed of notched logs with open spaces between the logs to permit the circulation of air (a log dwelling had chinking and caulking between the logs to prevent the infiltration of air). Inside, scaffolding held the tobacco sticks with the leaves suspended from them in such a way as to allow air to flow over the drying tobacco to prevent mold. Farmers employing the fire-curing method lit small fires on the barn's earthen floor to lower the relative humidity (Percy 1979:33). The Prince George's County barns differed from those constructed in Virginia and North Carolina for the flue curing of bright-leaf tobacco, which employed a stove or firebox with a flue and require a different type of barn—one that was essentially airtight to hold the heat. By the 19th century, the increasing availability of sawn lumber enabled southern Maryland's farmers to construct timber-frame tobacco barns covered with wooden siding, usually vertical board siding. Southern Maryland's air cured tobacco utilized barns constructed with air doors along the sides that could be opened to facilitate the circulation of air. These air doors were three or four vertical boards fastened together and usually hinged that could be opened.

The earliest tobacco barns identified in the survey along Croom Road are the ca. 1820 Duvall Tobacco Barn (87A-31) and the 1800-1830 Watson Tobacco Barn (87A-55) and the most recent barns date to the middle of the twentieth century such as the Stielper (87A-48), Jackson (87A-47), and Chase (87A-44) tobacco barns. Although the dates of construction for the surveyed barns range over one hundred and thirty years, the construction materials, methods of construction, and form of the tobacco barn changed very little. All of the barns surveyed are wood-frame and clad in vertical boards; all of the barns contain four-foot by four-foot rooms to hang the tobacco; and all of the barns have hinged vertical board air doors to control the circulation of air within the barns. The changes in form are very minor but provide the most insight into the date of construction. Early nineteenth century barns have steeply pitched gable roofs. From about 1830 until 1900 the barns have more standardized gable roofs, sometimes with one side of the gable extended to create a shed roof over a stripping room. Around 1900, the use of tractors increased in Prince George's County and central double-leaf doors opening onto a wide central passage began to appear in the barn. The final form change was the advent of the gambrel roof, which created more space within the barn to hang tobacco. Gambrel roofs begin to appear in the 1930s and 1940s.

The Duvall Tobacco Barn is significant as an example of an early 19th century tobacco barn in Prince George's County and fits into the early period of tobacco barn construction. It is the oldest barn identified in the Croom Road Scenic By-Way survey.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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David O. Percy, *The Production of Tobacco Along the Colonial Potomac. The National Colonial Farm Research Report No. 1, Agricultural History Series* (Accokeek, Md.: The Accokeek Foundation, 1979), 10-11.]

National Register of Historic Places, Red Fox Farm, Mecklenburg Co., Va., File 58-131, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va.

Calvert County Historic District Commission, "Tobacco Barns Calvert County Maryland," Prince Frederick, Md: Calvert County Historic District Commission, 1991), brochure.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property _____

Acreage of historical setting _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	J. Riggle, Architectural Historian		
organization	Ashley Neville, LLC	date	December 2005
street & number	11311 Cedar Lane	telephone	(804) 798-2124
city or town	Glen Allen	state	VA

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

